

## **McCall Subregion of the Southwest Region**

The McCall Subregion was home to 12 documented resident and 1 suspected resident wolf packs during 2005 (Figure 8; Table 4). Six of 7 reproductive packs qualified as breeding pairs. The Stolle Meadow pack did not qualify as a breeding pair as just a single pup was observed. All documented mortalities were related to human causes including agency lethal control, legal and illegal take, and accidental take (1 wolf was killed by a vehicle). Female wolf B254 was captured near Grassy Mountain north of McCall, Idaho, in late August during a control action. B254's pack affiliation, if any, was not known and in mid-November 2005, she was killed by a vehicle on Highway 95 north of New Meadows, Idaho. Confirmed and probable wolf-caused losses of cattle were attributed to the Orphan pack and 1 depredation involving unknown wolves. Confirmed and probable wolf-caused losses of sheep were attributed to the Blue Bunch, Carey Dome, Hazard Lake, Jungle Creek, and Partridge Creek packs, as well as unknown wolves. The Partridge Creek pack was also responsible for the death of 1 livestock guard dog. Due to lethal agency control conducted in 2004 and 2005, the statuses of the Hazard Lake and Partridge Creek packs was not known by the end of 2005. Although these packs may no longer exist, both were officially counted as they were present at some point during 2005. Fourteen wolves were captured in this subregion during 2005, which resulted in the deployment of 8 radio collars. One pup was not radio collared because it was too small, 1 wolf escaped, and four were euthanized during agency control actions at the times of their capture.

### Documented Resident Packs

#### *Blue Bunch*

This first-year pack, founded by alpha female B218 and an unknown male, inhabited the area between Council and McCall, Idaho, bounded by Highways 55 and 95. B218 was radio collared in the Monumental Creek drainage in August 2004. She was captured in the vicinity of an active Monumental Creek pack rendezvous site, so was presumed to be a member of that pack. Soon after her capture, however, she departed that area and so may have been a dispersing wolf from another pack and just happened to be moving through the area at the time of her capture. During fall/winter 2004, she traveled to, and was located north of, McCall, Idaho, around Brundage Mountain. By spring, she had established a territory along Red Ridge just south of New Meadows, Idaho. Four gray pups were observed in May around her first den site. This pack was implicated in depredations on domestic sheep in the spring and late fall as sheep bands grazed through this pack's home range, though no control actions were undertaken. An aerial observation in December 2005 indicated this pack included 6 wolves. The Blue Bunch pack was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

#### *Carey Dome*

This newly documented pack was retroactively added for 2004 based on observations made in 2005. Female wolf B257 was radio collared during a control action in late August 2005 after depredations on domestic sheep in this area. She was seen with 2 other gray wolves on 2 occasions in September 2005, north of Burgdorf, Idaho. During a November 2005 monitoring flight, 9 gray wolves were seen near the mouth of Twentymile Creek, an area within the Jungle Creek pack's territory. No evidence of reproduction was obtained. The Carey Dome pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### *Chamberlain Basin*

The traditional den site of this pack was not used for the second consecutive year, possibly indicating that alpha female B16 was no longer present, or no longer held alpha status and a different breeding female selected an alternate den site. Multiple adult wolves were verified by biologists at Cold Meadows in late June and later in the summer near Chamberlain airstrip. Both of these locations were previously used as rendezvous sites by this pack. In addition, a report of possibly 2 pups and a large, white wolf with a radio collar was received from the latter area in early September. The radio-collared wolf was probably either male B9 or female B16, both originally translocated from Canada in 1995. Both B9 and B16 would be at least 10 years old now and likely nearer 12 years. There was a minimum of 6 wolves present in Cold Meadows in early June 2005. Reproduction, though suspected, was not verified; therefore, this pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### *Gold Fork*

Only 2 gray wolves were seen during a monitoring flight in winter 2004/2005, presumably the alpha pair. Alpha female B130 was seen with 2 gray pups on different occasions in May and June. The Gold Fork pack was implicated in a depredation on domestic sheep in October, but no control action was undertaken because the sheep were being moved out of the area. Field and aerial observations resulted in a pack count of 4 individuals. This pack was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### *Golden Creek*

Two additional wolves, female B229 and male B230, were captured and radio collared in April by researchers from the University of Idaho's Taylor Ranch field station. Previously radio-collared individuals, female B203 and male B204, died during 2005 while dispersing; B203 was illegally killed and B204's death is under investigation. In addition, B230 was found dead during the big game hunting season. Personnel from Taylor Ranch investigated 2 reports of pups from an outfitter working in this pack's territory, though no verification of reproduction was obtained at those times. In mid-October, this pack made a kill at the Taylor Ranch, where the researchers were able to document 2-3 pups among the 7 individuals seen. The Golden Creek pack was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.



*Photo Janet Pope*

Holly and Jim Akenson, researchers at the Taylor ranch captured and collared B229 of the Golden Creek pack.

### *Hazard Lake*

Following lethal control of 3 members of this pack in 2004, it was difficult to monitor this pack. The lone remaining radio-collared wolf, male B183, left the pack's established territory during February 2005 and entered the adjacent Partridge Creek pack home range. B183 was seen with 3 other wolves during a monitoring flight in late May 2005, and in mid-August, B183 was located with B180, the alpha female of the Partridge Creek pack. No evidence of pups was discovered. At that time, wolf depredations on

domestic sheep were occurring nearby and WS was conducting control actions. Eventually both B183 and B180 were lethally removed. Examination of previously documented Hazard Lake pack rendezvous sites indicated that they were not used in 2005. A livestock producer in this pack's territory, who regularly observed these wolves in 2003 and 2004, reported fewer sightings in 2005 and felt there were possibly only 3 present. Based on 2004 pack size and the lethal controls that year, it was estimated that there could be 3-7 wolves remaining in 2005, though the pack may no longer exist. The Hazard Lake pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

#### *Jungle Creek*

Male wolf B157, the suspected alpha male of this pack, was observed during a winter 2004/2005 monitoring flight with 3 other wolves. Field efforts in June indicated that there were multiple adults and pups present at a rendezvous site. Because of the number of adults present, it seemed likely that this pack's reproduction in 2004 was not detected. This pack was implicated in depredations on domestic sheep in the Twentymile Creek drainage north of McCall, Idaho. Wildlife Services implemented control actions, but no wolves were removed. A minimum of 8 wolves was present during early summer 2005, though during the December 2005 monitoring flight just 5 wolves were observed. This pack was counted as a breeding pair for 2005 and was retroactively counted as a breeding pair in 2004.

#### *Monumental Creek*

Female wolf B218 was captured in this pack's territory in 2004, but she quickly left the area, leaving no radio-collared wolves to monitor there. A second female, B250, was outfitted with a radio collar in late July 2005 after biologists and researchers from the University of Idaho's Taylor Ranch field station located the pack at the same rendezvous site where B218 was caught. Two gray pups were observed along with 5-6 adults in the Monumental Creek drainage. During a mid-November 2005 monitoring flight, 15 gray wolves were observed just inside the Golden Creek pack's territory. This pack was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

#### *Orphan*

Alpha female B61's radio signal disappeared in January 2005, leaving no radio-collared wolves to monitor. In late May, biologists heard 3 wolves howling while conducting an unsuccessful capture operation near the 2004 den site. In July 2005, cattle producers in Scott Valley east of Cascade, Idaho, reported wolves in the vicinity of their livestock. Biologists confirmed the presence of multiple wolves, including pups, leading to another capture effort in which 2 black adults, 1 male (B246) and 1 female (B244), were radio collared. Subsequent observations indicated the presence of at least 5 adults (2 blacks, 3 grays) and 4 pups (3 blacks, 1 gray), though reports of as many as 6 black adult-sized wolves were received. The presence of gray wolves in this pack was largely unexplained; previously, all known members were black. A possible explanation was that male B117, former alpha of the Gold Fork pack who joined the Orphan pack from January to May 2004, was still present (though his radio signal was not detected) and bred with B61 in 2004. This could account for the presence of gray adult-sized wolves in 2005. Also, a sighting of a large, gray wolf wearing a radio collar was received in late September, which corresponds with B117's description. This pack was implicated in depredations on cattle for the first time in its existence. Control actions were implemented and 3 wolves (2 adults and 1 pup) were shot under shoot-on-sight permits issued to landowners. Female B244 died in October and USFWS Law Enforcement is investigating her death. At the end of 2005, pack size was estimated at 5-6 wolves. The Orphan pack was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### *Partridge Creek*

Alpha female B180 did not display signs of denning during spring and subsequent monitoring provided no evidence of reproduction. Her former mate, alpha male B211, was illegally killed in November 2004 and she likely did not acquire a new mate in time for the February breeding season. B180 was located on the north side of the Salmon River during the March and April 2005 monitoring flights, outside of this pack's previously defined territory. Despite B183, a male from the neighboring Hazard Lake pack, moving into the Partridge Creek pack territory in February, these individuals were not located together until mid-August. Several wolf depredations on domestic sheep precipitated control actions that led to lethal removal of 4 wolves, including B180 and B183, from the Partridge Creek pack home range. A female wolf, B254, was radio collared and released during control actions; she was frequently located within this territory, but was not with other wolves. B254 was killed by a vehicle on Highway 95 north of New Meadows, Idaho, in November 2005. The status of the Partridge Creek pack was unknown at the end of the year, and it was not counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### *Stolle Meadow*

Biologists documented this pack in July by investigating reports of wolf activity from the outfitter operating in this area. The outfitter heard wolves in this area during 2004, and based on data collected in 2005, this pack was retroactively counted for 2004. The suspected alpha female, B249, was captured and radio collared, and a gray pup was caught as well, though it was too small to radio collar. A second capture effort in September resulted in the radio collaring of a large, white, male wolf; possibly the alpha. Subsequent monitoring, ground and aerial, indicated that at least 4 adult wolves (2 blacks, 1 gray, 1 white) were present, but further evidence of pups was not obtained. Because only 1 pup was observed, the Stolle Meadow pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### *Thunder Mountain*

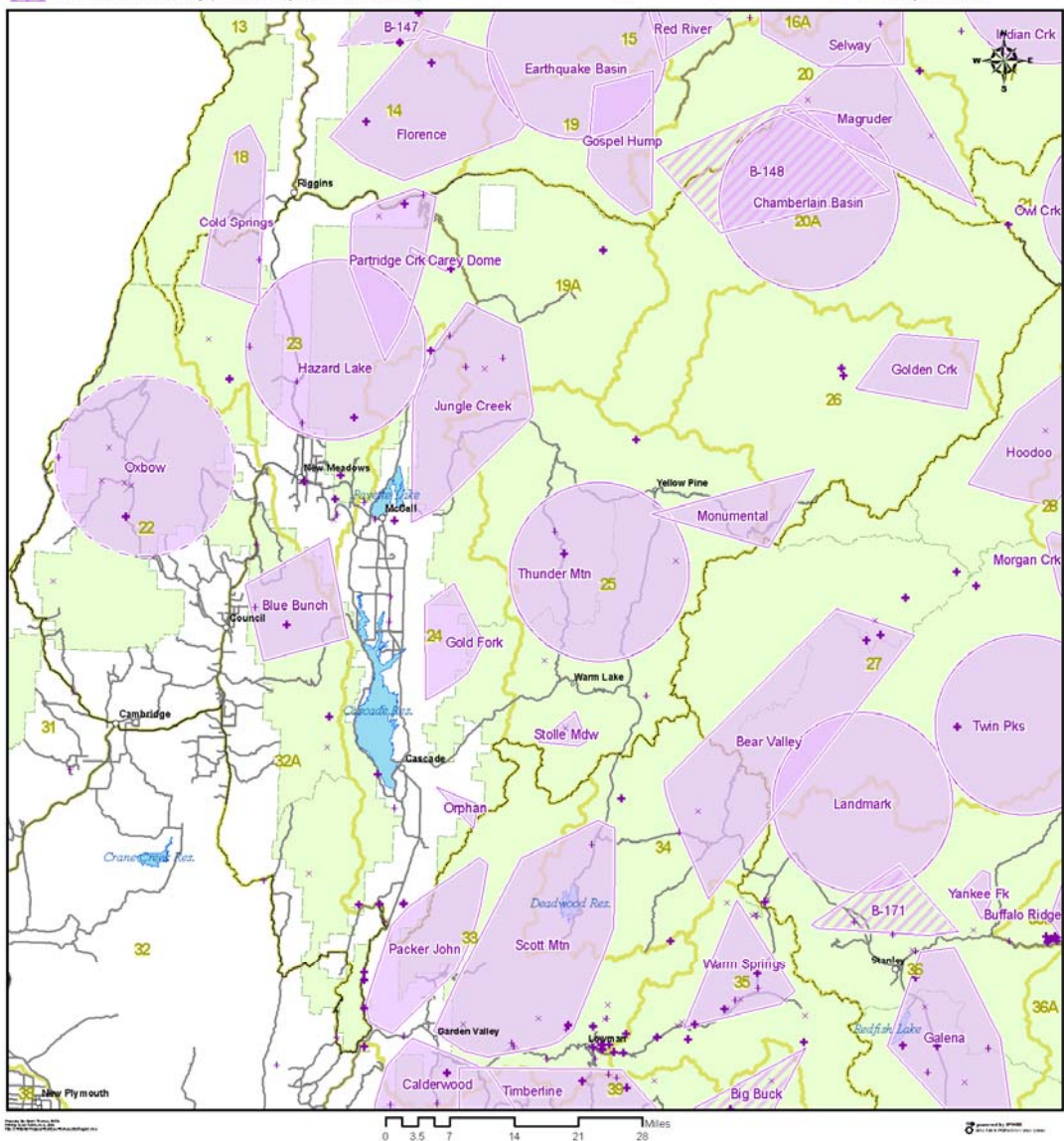
No radio collars remained in the Thunder Mountain pack and the current status of this pack was unknown. Discovery of wolf sign in this pack's territory led to a capture effort in late June near a traditional rendezvous site. Following establishment of the trap line, no wolves traveled the area, leaving this pack still uncollared. No evidence of reproduction was obtained and the Thunder Mountain pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### Suspected Resident Packs

#### *Oxbow*

The presence of multiple wolves was confirmed in and around the Wildhorse River drainage during winter 2004/2005. Public reports of wolves in the area continued throughout the year.

Telemetry and Research-based Territory (2004-05)*	Estimated Pack Activity (2004-05)**	Public Observations (2005)***
Documented Pack	Documented Pack	Not Specified
 Suspected Pack	 Suspected Pack	 Single Animal
 Documented Wolf Activity (Pair or Group less than 5 animals)	 Documented Wolf Activity (Pair or Group less than 5 animals)	 Multiple Animals



<sup>2</sup> Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the National Park Service. Pack territories are minimum convex polygons of telemetry locations and research observations for radio-collared wolves from 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2005 with outliers removed. Packs which no longer existed in 2005 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

\*\*\* Public Observations from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2005 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Map Produced by Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System, Idaho Fish and Game in cooperation with:  
The Nez Perce Tribe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; USDAAPHIS Wildlife Services; Montana Fish, Wildlife  
& Parks; and the National Park Service

Figure 8. Wolf pack activity and observations in the McCall Subregion, 2005.

Table 4. Estimated pack size, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs within Idaho Department of Fish and Game McCall Subregion, 2005.

Wolf pack or group	Min. no. wolves observed <sup>a</sup>	Reproductive status			Documented & suspected mortalities					Monitoring status			Confirmed & probable wolf- caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod.	Reprod. packs	Breeding pairs <sup>b</sup>	Natural	Control <sup>c</sup>	Other human <sup>d</sup>	Unknown <sup>e</sup>	Known dispersal	Active radio collars	Number wolves captured <sup>f</sup>	Number wolves missing <sup>g</sup>	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs
Documented															
Blue Bunch	6	4	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	37	0
Carey Dome	9	?	?	no	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	0
Chamberlain Basin	6	?	?	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gold Fork	4	2	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Golden Creek	7	2	yes	yes	0	0	h <sup>1</sup>	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
Hazard Lake	3	?	?	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0
Jungle Creek	8	2	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Monumental	14	2	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Orphan	5	4	yes	yes	0	3	1	0	0	2	2	0	3	0	0
Partridge Creek	?	?	no	no	0	5	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	19	1
Stolle Meadow	4	1	yes	no	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Thunder Mountain	?	?	?	no	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	66	17			0	8	2	0	2	10	14	0	3	72	1
Suspected															
Oxbow	?	?	?	no	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown					0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	0
Subtotal					0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	0
Regional total	66	17			0	9	3	0	2	11	15	0	4	76	1

<sup>a</sup> Number of wolves observed by wolf program personnel in 2005. Sum of this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

<sup>b</sup> Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as “an adult male and an adult female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...”.

<sup>c</sup> Includes agency lethal control and legal take by landowners.

<sup>d</sup> Includes all other human-related deaths.

<sup>e</sup> Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

<sup>f</sup> Includes all wolves captured during 2005. Most, but not all, were radio-collared.

<sup>g</sup> Radio-collared wolves that became missing in 2005.

<sup>h</sup> Two wolves died while dispersing from territory.

## Nampa Subregion of the Southwest Region

During 2005, the Nampa Subregion portion of the Southwest Region was home to 6 documented resident wolf packs (Figure 9; Table 5). Four documented packs were counted as breeding pairs. Of the 4 documented mortalities, two were human caused and cause of death could not be determined for the other two. Confirmed sheep and guard dog losses were attributed to the Steel Mountain pack, but no wolves were lethally controlled. Five wolves were captured and radio collared by trapping or aerial darting.

### Documented Resident Packs

#### *Calderwood*

Telemetry monitoring during spring 2005 indicated denning behavior by alpha female B141. However, pup count attempts were not possible due to private land issues. Ground and aerial capture efforts were unsuccessful. A maximum of 4 gray wolves was observed during aerial capture operations. The Calderwood pack was not implicated in livestock depredations. Pack size was estimated at a minimum of 4 gray wolves and this pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

#### *Packer John*

Ground monitoring led to an observation of 2 black and 1 gray pups, and 1 additional pup may have been present. In late summer, a dead uncollared gray wolf was found in Round Valley south of Cascade, Idaho. This was likely a member of the Packer John pack. In fall 2005, wolves were reported running through a flock of sheep in Round Valley. The herder harassed the wolves by shooting over their heads and no livestock were injured. No depredations were reported despite close proximity to livestock operations. Two black adults, males B261 and B262, were captured during IDFG helicopter capture efforts in December 2005. This second-year pack had a minimum of 7 wolves (3 blacks, 4 grays) and was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.



*Photo Michael Lucid*

IDFG research biologist George Pauley with wolf B262 of the Packer John pack captured by aerial darting in December.

#### *Scott Mountain*

Alpha male B115 was not located in 2005, possibly due to a failed radio collar. Subordinate male B177 was not located after March 2005, indicating he may have dispersed. Despite occasional locations of pack members near historic rendezvous sites, little evidence existed to suggest this pack produced pups in 2005. A gray male, B263, was radio collared during helicopter capture operations in December 2005. This fifth-year pack had a minimum of 8 gray pack members. The Scott Mountain pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### *Steel Mountain*

Subordinate female B188 spent considerable time away from other radio-collared pack members during spring 2005. In late spring 2005, however, she was back with other pack members. Female B186 was last located with other pack members in early March 2005. She has not been located since and was assumed to have dispersed. In June 2005, 2 gray and 2-5 black pups were observed at a rendezvous site. In August 2005, Steel Mountain pack members were implicated in a confirmed guard dog injury as well as 48 confirmed and 7 probable sheep kills. A control operation to lethally remove a majority of pack members was conducted following this depredation, but was unsuccessful. This fourth-year pack had a minimum of 9 wolves (5 blacks, 4 grays) and was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### *Timberline*

Status of wolf packs east of Idaho City, Idaho, has remained unclear for several years. In 2004, gray males B154 and B155 were initially localized east of Idaho City, Idaho, but both moved to the Featherville, Idaho, area by the end of the year. They were located east of Featherville during December 2004 and January 2005 monitoring flights. During the February 2005 flight, biologists detected a mortality signal from B154 in this same area.



*Photo Nate Borg*

IDFG wolf biologist Michael Lucid with wolf subadult female B231 of the Timberline pack.

The carcass of B154 revealed no evidence of illegal activity, though only the radio collar and remnants of hide were present. B155 was not located again until its carcass was discovered in the Boise River. The death of B155 is under investigation. In May 2005, B231, a subadult gray female wolf, was captured east of Idaho City. It was unclear whether this wolf was associated with the Timberline pack; however, she was consistently located in areas previously used by Timberline pack members. Monitoring of B231 led to a count of 3 gray pups; however, no adults other than B231 were observed at the rendezvous site. In fall 2005, B231's radio collar was retrieved after having been chewed off by other pack members. Multiple wolves were heard howling in the vicinity of the chewed-off radio collar, prompting a capture operation. No wolves were caught and the pack remained without radio collars. This fourth-year pack had a minimum of 6 gray wolves. The Timberline pack was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### *Warm Springs*

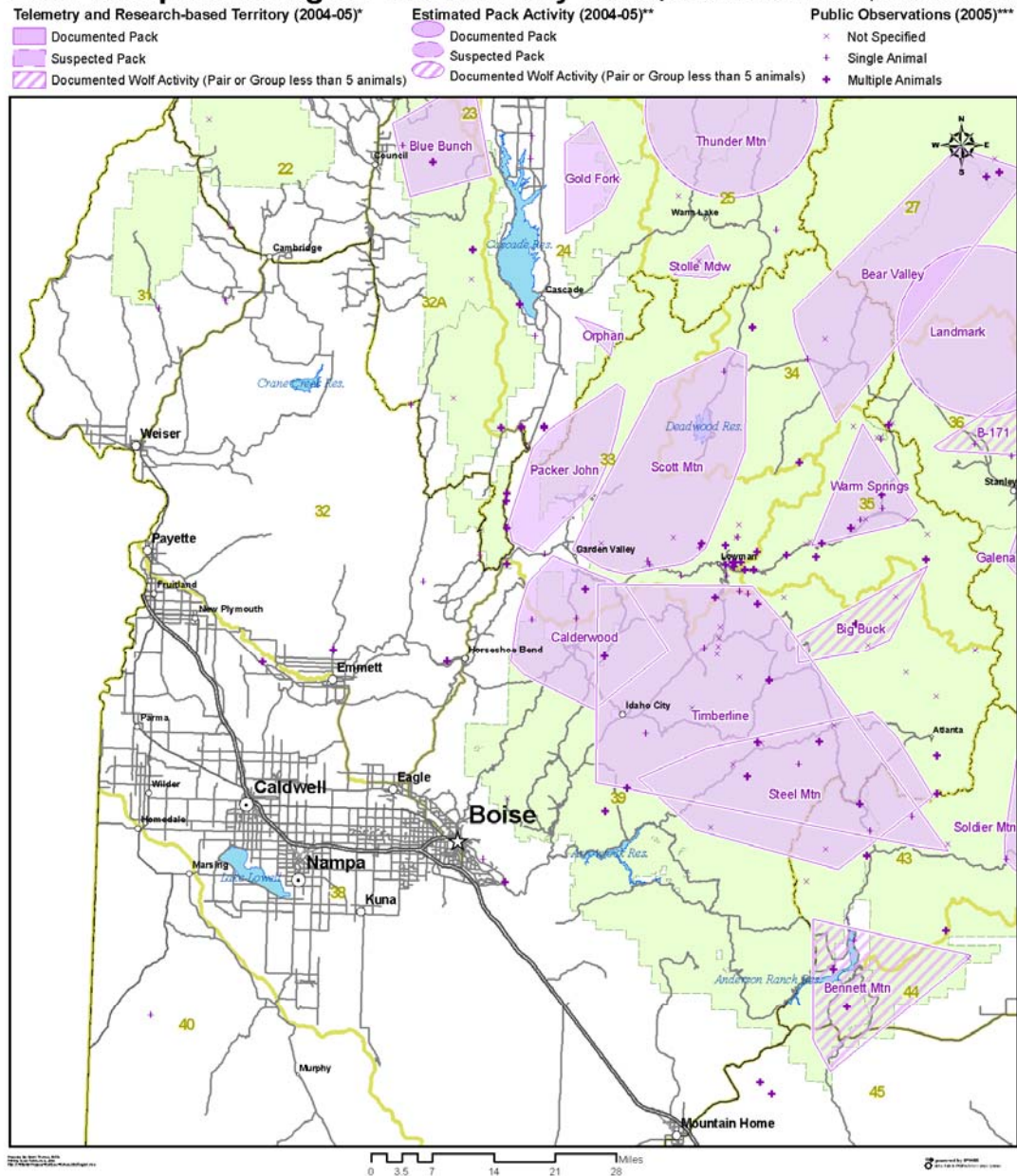
Multiple pups were heard vocalizing and pup sign was verified at a rendezvous site during spring and summer 2005, but sightings of pups were not obtained. In spring 2005, an uncollared gray wolf was illegally shot near Banner Summit. This wolf was thought to be a member of the Warm Springs pack. Members of this pack were heard howling by many recreationists and biologists in the vicinity of Bull Trout Lake campground throughout the summer. This second-year pack had a minimum of 7 gray pack members and was counted as a breeding pair for 2005.

### Other Wolf Groups Monitored

#### *Big Buck (B255)*

Several reports led biologists to investigate the Graham and Grandjean, Idaho, areas for wolf sign. Occasional wolf sign was observed in both areas from June-July 2005. In August 2005, a capture effort was undertaken in the Graham area. No wolves were captured, but 1 black and 2 gray wolves were observed together. In late August 2005, a second capture effort in the Sawtooth Wilderness resulted in radio collaring B255, a black subadult female. Pup count attempts were unsuccessful and B255 was highly mobile between Graham and Grandjean. In November and December 2005, biologists twice observed 1 black and 2 gray wolves during monitoring flights. This group was not implicated in livestock depredations, although a shepherd reported his guard dogs had fought with these wolves.

## 2005 Nampa SubRegion Wolf Activity Telemetry, Documented and Suspected Locations



\* Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the National Park Service. Pack territories are minimum convex polygons of telemetry locations and research observations for radio-collared wolves from 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2005 with outliers removed. Packs which no longer existed in 2005 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

\*\* Estimated Pack Activity determined by biologists from research locations, public observations and incidental observations from 1/1/2004 - 12/31/2005.

\*\*\* Public Observations from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2005 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Map Produced by Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System, Idaho Fish and Game in cooperation with: The Nez Perce Tribe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDAAPHIS Wildlife Services, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the National Park Service

Figure 9. Wolf pack activity and observations in the Nampa Subregion, 2005.

Table 5. Estimated pack size, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs within Idaho Department of Fish and Game Nampa Subregion, 2005.

Wolf pack or group	Min. no. wolves observed <sup>a</sup>	Reproductive status			Documented & suspected mortalities					Monitoring status			Confirmed & probable wolf- caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod.	Reprod. packs	Breeding pairs <sup>b</sup>	Natural	Control <sup>c</sup>	Other human <sup>d</sup>	Unknown <sup>e</sup>	Known dispersal	Active radio collars	Number wolves captured <sup>f</sup>	Number wolves missing <sup>g</sup>	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs
Documented															
Calderwood	4	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Packer John	7	3	yes	yes	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
Scott Mountain	8	0	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0
Steel Mountain	14	4	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	59	1
Timberline	6	3	yes	yes	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Warm Springs	7	2	yes	yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Subtotal	46	12			0	0	2	2	0	10	4	4	0	59	1
Other groups															
Big Buck	3	0	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	3	0			0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Regional total	49	12			0	0	2	2	0	11	5	4	0	59	1

<sup>a</sup> Number of wolves observed by wolf program personnel in 2005. Sum of this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

<sup>b</sup> Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as “an adult male and an adult female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...”.

<sup>c</sup> Includes agency lethal control and legal take by landowners.

<sup>d</sup> Includes all other human-related deaths.

<sup>e</sup> Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

<sup>f</sup> Includes all wolves captured during 2005. Most, but not all, were radio-collared.

<sup>g</sup> Radio-collared wolves that became missing in 2005.